

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gerd SPALINK

U.S. Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith

Title of Invention: CYCLE SYNCHRONIZATION BETWEEN
INTERCONNECTED SUB-NETWORKS

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4, 5, 8 and 11 as follows:

4. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the adjustment of the own cycle length within a cycle master is performed in a step-wise manner.

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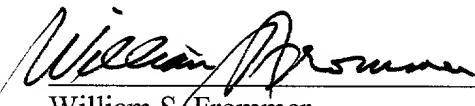
5. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the adjustment of the own cycle length within a cycle master is performed by adjusting a local number of clocks within one cycle.
8. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the cycle time information transmitted by the reference node is a content of its cycle time register.
11. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the recurring time instants are determined according to a regular time interval with a small variation.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain in the application. Claims 4, 5, 8 and 11 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to claims 4, 5, 8 and 11 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made.”** The filing fee has been calculated based upon these amendments to the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the claims:**

4. (Amended) Method according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, **characterized in that** the adjustment of the own cycle length within a cycle master is performed in a step-wise manner.
5. (Amended) Method according to claim 2, ~~3 or 4~~, **characterized in that** the adjustment of the own cycle length within a cycle master is performed by adjusting a local number of clocks within one cycle.
8. (Amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** the cycle time information transmitted by the reference node is a content of its cycle time register.
11. (Amended) Method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** the recurring time instants are determined according to a regular time interval with a small variation.

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